

# Making 2068 Back-ups on the A & J Mikrodrive

by Eben Brown

Using Thomas Woods 2068 Profile has proven to be the most convenient data base for our supplier and media contacts. (I've found it even better than Microsoft's FILE for the Macintosh... a \$200 fiasco software package.) Using it with our 2068 Mikrodrive (same as A & J Mikrodrive), has further enhanced it's utility with extra speed and reliability in saving and loading. I did, initially, have some misgivings about the Mikrodrive versions because there were no easy instructions for making back-ups. I've since figured a convenient method and thought it would be a good idea to share my method with you.

LOAD the Mikrodrive version of 2068 Profile from cassette and configure it as per instructions. (If you plan to use the internal mikrodrive printer port, you'll need a patch tape.) We'll supply you one for \$5 to cover costs. This will give you one blank copy of Mikrodrive profile. Now, to make back-ups, you'll need to configure a re-usable loader. With no wafer in the Mikrodrive, LOAD the Mikrodrive version from cassette once loaded. LIST the Loader program to your screen. Now, DELETE lines 1000-2000 from the Loader program. Next, FORMAT a couple of 5-10 foot wafers using the SAVE "@1, +" command. Now, insert one of these wafers and SAVE "@1,pfile". Save the same thing on the other formatted wafer. You have just made a Loader which you'll use to prepare other wafers to save Profile and it's data. Now, Format as many 35ft or longer wafers as you want to have for Profile back-ups. Then, LOAD "@1,pfile" LINE 1; VERIFY "@pfile". This saves and verifies an auto-run version of the loader to file 1 of each wafer. You now have a set of wafers that are ready to back-up Profile and it's data.

To use these back-ups, you start a file with your original empty Mikrodrive version of Profile. When it's time to SAVE your work. You remove the original wafer and insert one of your prepared wafers. Since the SAVE goes to files 2 and 3, your Profile and data will be readily saved and verified. To make a back-up copy, just SAVE again onto another prepared wafer.

NOTE: Besides speed, the 2068 Mikrodrive should be consistantly reliable. If you have frequent tape errors, there is something wrong. After a year of no problems, mine started having frequent tape errors. I used a swab and the cleaning solvent from our computer maintenance kit to clean the head and rollers and the drive returned to it's previous reliability.

I hope this back-up procedure is helpful to you. If you have any questions or confused by any of this, please call or write for help.

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The next two sources I haven't had personal dealings with but, you may find them useful. T.E.J. Computer Products, 859 N. Virgil Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029, (213) 665-5111 has Timex software and hardware. A lot of the software is imported and not otherwise generally available in my experience.

*Sync Abstracts*, Box 313, Mason, MI 48854 is published by SAF-UG, a user's group, has most of the original Timex software for rent. When I ordered a sample copy of the newsletter last June it took a follow-up letter and a few weeks to receive it. Quite frankly I am not even sure they are still there but I am including them because the most it can cost you is a twenty-two cent stamp to find out and if it is possible to rent the software to check it out it will be worth the effort. They also list abstracts taken from the pages of "SYNC" magazine (now defunct) for only pennies per page. They include games and utilities that many of you would find useful and I hate to drop what may be a potentially good source because I haven't had the time to double check on them.

I said it last time and may I emphasize it this time. Don't forget to CHECK YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY! I got my first TS-1000 word processor program from a book there. I found books on my VIC that explained a few things that other books I had didn't. And, I didn't have to pay for any of this information! That's what libraries are for. Use yours...

In no way are my listings here exhaustive of the wealths available. If you want exhaustive write D. Lipinski Software, 2737 Susquehanna Rd., Roslyn, PA 19001. Send him \$20.00 and he will send you his Sinclair-Timex buyers guide which he keeps updated and should include just about everything available for your orphan. He also has a number of home/business application programs. I haven't seen the book but I have read two reviews and they both recommended it very highly. It is supposed to tell you everything you would ever care to know about what is available and where to get it.

There is one other good sourcebook for Timex information and products. You are holding it in your hands as you read this. Support CTM'S advertisers so Chet can support you!

On a final note you may be wondering why after saying all these nice things about the TS-1000 and what is available for it why I still prefer my VIC amid the dwindling support for it. Well,

the main reason is that it has a keyboard buffer. I'm not the fastest typist in the world but my Timex, even with a standard keyboard, slows me down so much waiting for the letters to be entered as I type that I just get so frustrated I almost fall prey to nonproductive destruction. I want so badly to drop a fast hard fist on it. If I was a two finger typist I probably would have stuck with it and gotten a proper printer and interface for it, more memory and so on. But since word processing accounts for about 75% of my computer use time I just couldn't hack it. I do like color and sound too and with the Super Expander Cartridge I have many commands available to me that the new C-128 has for writing music and doing artwork. I understand the VIC-20 is still selling, and well, in Europe. Also the Toys-R-Us chain in this country has been selling them new with 5 game cartridges for \$70.00. That's a long way for a computer considered a radical move and innovator that originally sold for \$300.00 with no extras.

Next time I will cover publications that support the VIC and Timex Sinclairs. You TS-2068 users take heed of the above addresses. They can all provide for you as well.

Well I see by my program I only hve 10,432 bytes left so I'll say so long for now.

Take care....

Patrick J. Patterson

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